

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus for electrically connecting electrodes of a device under test and conductive portions formed in a base plate, comprising:

a plurality of plate-like probes each for electrically connecting one of the electrodes and one of the conductive portions, having a tip to be pressed against the one electrode on one end of said probe and a curved outer face on one side of the width direction of said probe and further having a first recess opening on said one side; and

an assembler for assembling said probes onto the base plate such that said probes are arranged at intervals in the thickness direction and that said tips are projected on the side opposite to the base plate, ~~and~~ wherein said assembler ~~includes~~ comprises:

(i) a cover having a second recess elongated in the arranging direction of said probes and opening on the side of the base plate;

(ii) a falling-off preventing member made of an elastic material disposed in said second ~~recesses~~ recess in a state of extending in the arranging direction of said probes and being fitted into said first ~~recesses~~ recess in a state of close fit so as to prevent said probes from falling off said cover; and

(iii) a needle presser extending in the arranging direction of said probes and disposed in said second ~~recesses~~ recess for making said outer faces of said probes contact the conductive portions,

wherein said cover further comprises a fifth recess communicating with an end portion of the falling-off preventing member longitudinally of said second recess, and wherein said falling-off preventing member is further fitted into said fifth recess in a state of close fit with the end portion.

Claim 2 (canceled).

3. (Previously presented) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein said probe further includes a third recess opening on the other side in said width direction and wherein at least a part of said needle presser is fitted into said third recess.

4. (Currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein said cover further ~~has~~ comprises a plurality of slots communicating ~~to~~ with said second ~~recesses~~ recess and opening on the side of the base plate and on the side opposite thereto and arranged at intervals in the arranging direction of said probes, wherein said probes extend within said slots to project said tips from said slots toward the side opposite to the base plate.

5. (Currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 4, wherein said cover ~~has~~ comprises a fourth recess opening toward the side opposite to the base plate for receiving said device under test and communicating ~~to~~ with said slots, said probes projecting their tips into said fourth ~~recesses~~ recess.

Claim 6 (canceled).

7. (Previously presented) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein said probes are pressed against said conductive portion by said needle presser.

8. (Currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein said probes have the other end side brought into contact with a face forming said second ~~recesses~~ recess.